



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-010
Friday
15 January 1988

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-010

CONTENTS

15 January 1988

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Verification Commission Prepares Report [Panama City]	1
Parts of Report Leaked [ACAN]	1
Honduran President Holds News Conference [Managua]	2

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

MINREX Reports Meeting With U.S. Officials	4
Vice President of Italian Senate Arrives	4

Bahamas

Prime Minister Pindling on Haitian Situation	4
--	---

Barbados

Tudor Urges Caricom To Avoid Haiti Elections	5
--	---

Haiti

Opposition Leaders Dejoie, Roy Receive Warning	5
Former Presidential Candidates Call for Strike [AFP]	5
Turmoil Continues Throughout Country	6
Army Summonses, Arrests	6
Problems in Savanette Area	7
Boycott Supporters Arrested [AFP]	7
Campaign in Gonaives	7
Campaign in Northwest	8
Peasants Under Pressure	8

Jamaica

Minister Flies to Haiti To Observe Elections	9
--	---

St Lucia

Compton Calls Haitian Elections 'Sham'	9
--	---

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

President Confirms Receiving Death Threats [DPA]	11
Arias Meets Managua Officials, Contra Leaders [Managua]	11

El Salvador

President Terms Visit of CIVS 'Biased' [DIARIO LATINO 14 Jan]	11
Duarte Meets Nicaraguan Resistance Leaders [ACAN]	11

Guatemala

URNG Addresses Message to CIVS [PRENSA LIBRE 10 Jan]	11
Quito Ambassadorial Post To Remain Vacant [EL GRAFICO 13 Jan]	14

Honduras

Azcona 'Opposes' New Compliance Deadlines [ACAN]	14
Two Rights Leaders Killed in San Pedro Sula [AFP]	15
Former Military Chief Alvarez Martinez Returns	15

Nicaragua

Ortega Opposes Extending Esquipulas Deadlines	15
Charges Filed Against U.S. Citizen Denby	15
Opposition Meets With Contras in Guatemala	16
MININT Issues Communique	16

Panama

PRD on 'Irrevocable' Future CEN Changes	17
Opposition Leader Galindo on Blandon Meetings	17
Civic Crusade Leaders Deny 'Settlement' [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 13 Jan]	19
Opposition Meeting With U.S. Envoy Scored [CRITICA 14 Jan]	19
Paper Notes 'Disinformation' Base in San Jose [CRITICA 13 Jan]	19

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Further Reportage on Rico Case Developments	21
'Unofficial Spokesman' Cited	21
Army Issues Communique	22
Tanks Nearing Bella Vista	22
Rico Willing To Resist Force	22
'Zero Hour' for Rico Noted	23
Guard Ordered to Withdraw	23
Further on Tank Deployment	23
3 Officers Said Replaced	23
Units Ordered Ready To Move	24
More Armored Units Mobilized	24
Shots Heard in Country Club	24
Guard Posts 'Reinforced'	24
Tank Advance Continues	24
'Armored Vehicles' to Capital	24
Further Rico Statement Issued [EFE]	25
Judge Says Rico Not at Club	25
Rico Whereabouts Said Unknown	25
Rico Said Injured in Incident	26

Brazil

5-year Term Amendment Wins Assembly Majority	26
Nobrega Meets With Sao Paulo Businessmen	26

Chile

Merino Announces Date of Plebiscite	27
FPMR Leader Discusses Strategy, Plebiscite [EFE]	27

Colombia

President Barco Speaks on Social Change 28

Suriname

Bouterse Rejects Negotiation on Brunswijk 29

Verification Commission Prepares Report

PA150444 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The International Verification and Follow-Up Commission of the Esquipulas II agreements ended its meeting this morning during which it prepared a report it will present to the Central American presidents in Costa Rica on Friday. The content of the report has not yet been revealed. The meeting in which the report was prepared was always held behind closed doors.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry said that 250 days after the signing of the Esquipulas II agreements it would be wrong to say that no progress has been made and that the task has been completed.

Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono told the news media that during the 1-day meeting of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, all points under consideration were discussed and that the report will not be made public until all the Central American presidents have seen it.

Parts of Report Leaked

PA142251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2028 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—According to a report by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS], it has become evident the territories of several Latin American countries are used to attack other countries and the United States provides "military assistance" to the Nicaraguan "contras."

Parts of this document were leaked to the press today. This report was prepared during a CIVS meeting held in Panama 12-13 January. The CIVS comprises the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and representatives of the UN and OAS secretaries general.

The report will be analyzed tomorrow in Costa Rica during the "Esquipulas III" presidential "summit." It states that "the U.S. Government maintains its policy and practice of providing aid, especially military aid, to the unconventional forces operating against the Nicaraguan Government."

It also contains the charge by the Salvadoran Government that Nicaragua grants "covert aid" to the Salvadoran rebel forces.

The document notes that El Salvador has demanded this aid be suspended, because it would be "indispensable for the success of the peace efforts of the procedure as a whole."

However, the CIVS stated that Nicaragua has rejected the accusations against it.

In its report, the CIVS discloses that it has received charges "by several area governments and the testimony of nongovernment sources regarding the aid to unconventional forces or rebel movements" where the territory of one state is used to attack another.

"In this respect, charges by El Salvador against Nicaragua and by Nicaragua against Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica have been received," the report for the Central American presidents adds.

However, the governments of the countries involved state that they "could not accept such charges until the facts and evidence were presented. They state their commitment to allow unconditional inspection in their territories," the document explains.

The Central American presidents made the commitment not to let their territories be used to attack other countries in the "Esquipulas II" treaty.

On this matter, the CIVS reports notes that the violation of this point "with or without the consent of the committed government facilitates the action by these forces or movements and hampers peace."

The CIVS admits "it is not in the position to verify this matter, because it has thus far been unable to install mechanisms for on-site inspections."

The CIVS also notes that on-site inspections are necessary as an indispensable requirement for verification, "if the CIVS is to act objectively, independently, and efficiently."

The report states: "All CIVS members accept this basic premise, and no one argues the need for mechanisms to be properly established in order to begin its work of verification and follow-up."

For that reason, the report states CIVS members agree to advise the heads of state on the need to ask the UN and the OAS secretaries general "to send an urgent technical mission to the region."

The CIVS explains that the objective of this mission would be "to finalize the details to establish mobile units in the five Central American countries," to be in charge of verification and follow-up.

Regarding the commitments on democratization, respect for human rights, free elections, and refugees and displaced persons, "the CIVS feels its work of verification and follow-up could be helped by the action of international organizations," which were not identified in the text.

Honduran President Holds News Conference
PA150255 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2150 GMT 14 Jan 88

[News conference by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo upon his arrival at Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica—live...broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Azcona]...[words indistinct] Therefore, the statements that the United States may close our banana market because of a decision made by us here is of no importance. People [words indistinct] would affect the dignity of a small and honorable country such as Honduras. We are a very organized country. Do not believe that Honduras has no organization; we have social organizations that are as strong or even stronger than the ones existing in Costa Rica. [words indistinct] professional groups, student groups, etc. We are not a country to be conquered.

[Moderator] [Passage indistinct]

[Reporter] I would like to know your opinion [words indistinct]?

[Azcona] We signed that agreement in Guatemala, and we will comply with it. However, as I told you previously, Honduras has complied with perhaps more than 95 percent of the agreement. I am very pleased to tell you this. The integrated reconciliation commission has not stated any doubts or objected to the [words indistinct] of the Esquipulas agreement by the Honduran Government. The reconciliation commission is formed by Catholic Archbishop Msgr Enrique Santos; a representative of the largest opposition party, the National Party [words indistinct] attorney Cesar Batres; the delegate chosen by the executive branch, who has been the Christian Democrat's presidential candidate twice and who even opposes government policy; the president of the largest Honduran peasant organization, the Honduran National Peasant Association, who also belongs to one of [words indistinct] party, Renovation and Unity Party; Olman Valladares, another member of that same party, representing the smaller parties; and Dr Alfredo Fortin Inestroza, representing the executive branch, who is one of the presidential designates accompanying me today. I am very pleased to tell you that there has been no objections in their report about Honduras' compliance with Esquipulas II.

[Moderator] [Passage indistinct].

[Reporter]...past situations on accusations made by opposition groups and independent organizations regarding incursions of the Honduran Army in Honduran territory.

[Azcona] The Honduran Army in Honduran territory?

[Reporter] Sorry, in Salvadoran territory. I would like to know whether within the framework of Esquipulas II, your government [words indistinct] respected the neutrality of Salvadoran [word indistinct]?

[Azcona] We have respected the neutrality of that commitment. We have respected Salvadoran sovereignty. There are some areas that are still being disputed with El Salvador. Presently, this territorial dispute is at the International Court of Justice at The Hague. However, Honduras has not occupied these areas. We have respected Salvadoran sovereignty. We have not made incursions into Salvadoran territory nor will we do so in the future. I have supported the Salvadoran Armed Forces [words indistinct].

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] ...the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission had to conduct an on-site inspection in areas where alleged contra camps are located. You finally agreed that they could make this tour. Why did you change your mind? Also, I would like to know whether your government would allow the Commission to send mobile units to make this inspection? Thank you.

[Azcona] We have never rejected any on-site verification because we have never received a request in that regard. I have already issued information on verifications and have told them: Go ahead, we agree with that but we cannot refuse to do something that we have not been asked to do. Thank you.

[Reporter] You have said you will oppose a new deadline for compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement. I would like you to explain your position.

[Azcona] Deadlines have come to pass, and there has been no substantial progress in the implementation of the process. Unless there are strong coercive actions to force compliance with the agreements, we will not agree with new deadlines for countries to comply with the Esquipulas II agreements.

[Reporter] Would there be a difficult situation if the United States were to suspend its aid to the Nicaraguan resistance movement? How do you view a suspension of aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance?

[Azcona] I said during my trip to the United States last October that such a suspension would not be a political solution. If pressure is taken off the Sandinist regime, Honduras would have to spend much of its budget on defense and security. This is an opinion. I am not saying that others must share this opinion. It is my opinion. There has been no progress in Nicaragua's domestic pacification effort. There has been no understanding between the parties in conflict; there is no cease-fire, no

amnesty, no reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family. If no pressure is applied for this to happen, Honduras would have to increase its security and defense expenditures.

[Reporter] The essential problems of Nicaragua and El Salvador are domestic. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said today that the deadline will have to be analyzed, and you have practically said you do not agree with having new deadlines. How can there be a suspension of the cease-fire in those two countries—El Salvador and Nicaragua—if no deadline is set for finding a solution to the peace problem in Central America?

[Azcona] I have not come to Costa Rica with rigid positions, not at all. I believe that each president has to contribute to peace in Central America. We do not want to leave this matter incomplete. We want verification,

but correct verification. Why put us all in the same boat? I do not agree with some aspects of the CIVS although I do agree with others. There is Honduras: a country that enjoys unrestricted freedom of the press and all liberties, a country that granted an amnesty decree that included nonpolitical situations so we could free someone from jail, which is the case of some peasants who were under arrest on land invasion charges.

How is it possible that we are put in the same category as other countries that do have domestic problems, where there have been general amnesties? [as heard] We understand the word amnesty as a general amnesty. All people in jail for political reasons must be freed. I believe the peace plan requires more substance, more coercive pressure, or deadlines for the application of sanctions; otherwise, we will not secure anything positive. This is my point of view.

Cuba

MINREX Reports Meeting With U.S. Officials

FL150035 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX] has issued the following news release:

In accordance with the Cuban-U.S. immigration agreement signed 14 December 1984, representatives from our government and the United States met on 12 and 13 January 1988 in Mexico City to analyze the advancement and implementation of the agreement.

The MINREX note says the discussions were held in a constructive manner with the goal of implementing the immigration agreement in an orderly and smooth fashion.

Vice President of Italian Senate Arrives

FL132040 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Emilio Taviani, vice president of the Italian Senate and chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, arrived in our country this morning. Taviani, who also presides over an organization of freedom fighters, is a former defense, interior, and finance minister, doctor in law and social sciences, graduated from statistics and paleography, was decorated with two crosses of the resistance war against fascism, and received the freedom merit medal. He has been editor of (CIVILTA) political studies magazine since 1950, which advocates world peace. He will visit places of historic, political, and social interest in our country and will participate in activities marking the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

[Begin Taviani recording] I should say that when we speak of the 500th anniversary we are not talking about discovery because the true discovery was the discovery of the ignorance the old world had of the existence of this new world and vice versa. We like to say the world has merged; it came together not only geographically but in the arts and culture. All the geniuses who were involved in the beginning of this modern era were Italian. [end recording]

Bahamas

Prime Minister Pindling on Haitian Situation

FL141630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1452 GMT
14 Jan 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 14, CANA—Bahamas, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling says Caribbean countries have done as much as they can in the Haiti situation short of interfering in the internal affairs of the

impoverished nation. Pindling was commenting on the outcome of the January 6-7 Caribbean Community (Caricom) consultation in Barbados, attended by 11 of the 13 member states.

The meeting found procedures for Haitian elections on Sunday to be flawed but offered no solution to the political crisis in the French-speaking nation which is emerging from three decades of repressive dictatorship.

The Bahamas might have been prepared to commit herself further but there was no international encouragement to do so, Pindling said. The industrialised countries of the West had neglected Haiti for decades and had treated her population as a non-people. The Bahamas, like the other countries in Caricom, was small, weak and poor. Caricom had neither the military might to enforce a change in Haiti nor the economic muscle to feed her people and, in the absence of satisfactory, up-front assurances given before the new date set for the elections in Haiti, January 17, 1988, by those countries who had both military might and economic power, The Bahamas was not prepared and could not be expected to do more, Pindling said.

The prime minister said that Haiti and her people had already suffered greatly and The Bahamas felt that Caricom, should do nothing to prolong the country's agony and continue the peoples' hemorrhaging.

The prime minister said he told Caricom heads of government and the subsequent press conference releasing the chairmans' final communique that, in his view, Caricom could not be reasonably expected to do more and that The Bahamas was unwilling to interfere in the internal affairs of Haiti, without Haiti's invitation, and to commit herself to further action unless:

Such action was taken under the umbrella of the United Nations or the Organisation of American States;

The United Nations and/or the Organisation of American States agreed to financially assist The Bahamas in meeting the cost of accommodating the new wave of economic refugees that would certainly flee to The Bahamas;

After January 17, 1988 the United States of America was prepared to treat immigrant Haitians as favourably as other Latins (Cubans, Nicaraguans, and El Salvadoreans, for example) had been treated; and

The Western industrialised nations pledged substantial financial and technical assistance to Haiti at least for the critical first five years of a new, democratically-elected government.

Talk was cheap, prime minister Pindling said, but it took money to buy land. He concluded that, in his view Caricom having met, the next move belonged to the international community of the West and the international agencies.

Barbados

Tudor Urges Caricom To Avoid Haiti Elections

FL142347 Bridgetown CANA in English
2324 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 14, CANA—Following is a statement Barbados Foreign Minister Sir James Tudor issued Thursday on the political situation in Haiti:

In a communique issued in Port-au-Prince on January 11 the National Council of Government of Haiti announced that it had invited the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, the Organisation of African Unity, and the European Community to send representatives to observe the elections scheduled for January 17.

According to reports in the press on January 13 the Jamaica prime minister Edward Seaga, is quoted as saying that he had received a cable from the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs inviting the Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders (GCCL) to send an observer mission to Haiti for the same purpose.

The government of Barbados is not a member of the so-called Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders and has never been consulted on any of its activities. Barbados will not, therefore, be associated with any observer mission to Haiti on the part of GCCL.

We are gravely concerned that the Haitian authorities have not heeded Caricom's call to "remove the offending features of the electoral process," and therefore the arrangements for the elections scheduled to be held on January 17 remain, in the words of the Caricom declaration, "seriously compromised and cannot therefore be regarded as credible," and we categorically reject the notion that a bad election is better than no election.

Moreover, all information received suggests that the elections, if held as scheduled, will again take place in an atmosphere of such disquiet and tension and with such a significant lack of popular participation, as to make a mockery of the entire electoral process.

In these circumstances, the government of Barbados is of the view that any observer mission runs the risk of being manipulated to lend credibility to a seriously flawed, if not completely fraudulent process.

We therefore urge all countries, most especially our Caricom partners, not to have anything to do with those elections. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Opposition Leaders Dejoie, Roy Receive Warning

FL142315 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in French 1700 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Haitian opposition leader Louis Dejoie yesterday, in Washington, called on democratic governments to take measures, such as a total trade embargo, in support of the movement to boycott Sunday's elections in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Dr Louis Roy, president of the Association for the Defense of the Haitian Constitution of 1987 yesterday, in Ottawa, denounced the farce that the elections scheduled for 17 January in Haiti constitute. [passage omitted]

What is astonishing about the positions taken [by Dejoie and Roy] is the levity and the totalitarianism that characterizes them and the little consideration they show toward a population they claim they have the right to defend.

Floundering about, blowing their own horns, these individuals, who are mere bluff are truly representative of their class. They are reactionary, loyal to no nation, and antinationalist.

These perverted Haitians, undeserving of the name, by defending their own interests—the interests of their class and their personal points of view—are sullyng Haiti's good name abroad and seem to have forgotten that the period to which they wish to return was a period of hateful and ignominious humiliation for Haiti. Yesterday were the good old days, for them. Today, it is up to others to make their presence on the scene felt.

Truly yearning after a bygone era, they refuse to admit that national independence was won thanks only to a disinterested and enthusiastic union of blacks and mulattoes. Today, no class can legitimately claim as its own, can claim paternity of, the prowess of Vertieres that won us the status of the world's free, sovereign, black nation.

Let them consider themselves warned.

Former Presidential Candidates Call for Strike

PA141856 Paris AFP in Spanish 1706 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Jan (AFP)—The Committee for Democratic Agreement, which is made up of the former four main candidates for the Presidency, today issued a call for a general strike on Saturday to reaffirm their rejection of the elections to be held in Haiti on Sunday.

The statement, signed by the four former candidates, Marc Bazin, Sylvio Claude, Gerard Gourgue, and a representative of Louis Dejoie, the fourth candidate, also calls for a "day of national condemnation" on election day, Sunday, 17 January, and for the release of people who were recently arrested.

Turmoil Continues Throughout Country

Army Summonses, Arrests

FL142223 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[By Hinche correspondent (Jacques Clerveau)]

[Text] Here in Hinche things are still the same. The Army is continuing to carry out its mission. Summonses [manda envitasyon] are continuing to be sent out. Some people have appeared; others have fled.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 13 January 1988, a five-person group composed of MPP [Papaye Peasants Movement] members and group leaders and members of the Caritas team left Papaye for the Charlemagne Peralte Barracks in response to one of these invitations. They are: (Altide Loudior), (Rodrigue Raphael), agronomist (Cantave Jean-Baptiste), (Edwanne Saintina), and (Dieudonne Joseph).

After an interrogation, they were all thrown in jail. Shortly afterwards, agronomist (Cantave) was released. They also released (Dieudonne Joseph), a former member of the Armed Forces whom they claim is training members of the groups in the use of firearms in Papaye.

Furthermore, there were already other MPP members and group leaders in prison, such as (Telemaque Altidor), a group leader arrested by the Army at his home in Marmont, together with two CASEC [Administrative Council for the Rural Section] members who were candidates in the 29 November elections. The two CASEC members have now been released. Group leader (Telemaque Altidor) is still in jail.

Mrs (Irama Delima), a group member, is also in jail. Finally, also in jail is (Providence Pierre), who had responded to the Army's invitation on 8 January, together with (Delano Exil). After a final judgment in the Court of Conciliation on Monday, 11 January, (Delano) was temporarily released; but when they went back to get him, later, he was no longer to be found.

A total of six members of those organizations are in jail in Hinche but there are rumors that there are many other warrants out for other people, among them, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste. [a lay Catholic peasant leader in Papaye]

Chavannes is sick in bed but determined to appear in response to the invitation the moment he receives a summons, even if he has to be carried there.

Meanwhile, there was a rumor circulating yesterday morning that the Army was planning to enter Papaye to search for weapons. The people of Papaye say they have no objections whatsoever to this. A member of MPP explained this to us, in an interview. He said: When they talk of arms, to us this simply means machetes, knives, hoes, assorted picks, shovels, rakes, etc., with which we tame the land; but as for firearms, there aren't any, unless some rogue hides a few boxes of weapons in the area to frame the MPP. Let's listen to that peasant's statements. [passage indistinct]

He also said that if they formed brigades, it was only to keep watch over their accomplishments which they achieved through the sweat of their own brows, such as silos, storage depots for tools, money, etc.

The situation doesn't look too good in Cerca Carvajal and Thomonde either.

Apparently there are many people in hiding in Cerca. And in Thomonde too, they began arresting members of TKL [expansion not provided] and of groups on Tuesday, 12 January.

In the face of this troubled situation, the bishop, priests, nuns, and other clergy of the Hinche diocese have made a statement:

We priests, clergy, and the bishop of the dioceses have come to address you, in this extraordinarily serious situation prevailing in the country and especially in the diocese.

There is talk of only one thing at present: Let's go hide. Townspeople are fleeing to the rural areas and the people from the rural areas are fleeing into town. Why? Summonses are being sent out left and right for people to appear at the barracks. When people appear, they are put in jail. Again, why? People are being arrested without a warrant and taken to jail.

They are surprised to see a climate of fear again installing itself in Haiti, just like under the former regime.

We ourselves are surprised to see they are arresting and jailing without cause those people who respect themselves, people trusted by everyone. We want our brothers and sisters in jail to know we share their suffering, we stand with them, and we are in solidarity with them.

To all who have had to flee, or who are living in fear thinking that they might come after them: Know that we are with you.

Brothers and sisters, the people who are putting us through all this will not have the last word. God is on our side. We will continue to trust Him. He will not drop us. Don't be discouraged!

Problems in Savanette Area

FL142247 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent (Johnny Decamp)]

[Excerpt] The police in Hinche has sent out several summons to members of the Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP]; two of the movement's group leaders have been in jail since 8 January. The two group leaders have already appeared before a justice of the peace twice for questioning in connection with the elections.

There is a rumor circulating that there is a weapons cache in Papaye, but many people say this isn't true. They believe if there were one, the police would have already found it.

In Savanette, in the lower central plateau, there are three associations [running] for magistrate. It looks as if one of the associations might have a problem participating in next Sunday's elections. Let's listen to statements from (Fritz Jean-Francois), president of the Communal Electoral Office [BEC] in Savanette.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr (Fritz Jean-Francois), you are the president of the Savanette BEC. Can you tell me what the problem is there?

[(Jean-Francois)] The problem is that in all the villages in the Savanette area, there are groups of young men terrorizing people. Two men came to Savanette from Gonaives. A person named (Darielo Nodama) took them to (Coros). They lodged at (Edlor Sebastien's), who is a candidate, the third member of [words indistinct] association. These men are sowing terror all around Savanette. They are giving us many, many problems.

[Reporter] What kind of problems? What kind of (?fear are they inspiring)?

[(Jean-Francois)] Several peasants have come to tell us these men told them not to vote. The peasants have problems. They say they will not vote because they are afraid of being shot. They are being told that the police will shoot them.

We ourselves say this is untrue. All we have to say to the people is: Come vote. The people should come vote. They need not be afraid. On the contrary, the police will provide security for them. They must come vote. That is all we have to say to them.

[Reporter] OK, you were talking to me about that man. Tell me his name again, the one in (Losama's) association, I believe?

[(Jean-Francois)] A association plagued by mishaps! OK. There is a man called (Edlor Sebastien). It is to his house that these men came, the men from Gonaives.

[Reporter] What about (Sebastien)?

[(Jean-Francois)] The police had been looking for him. They had arrested him, so he could tell them what kind of problems these fellows were causing around his house. He fled. We haven't seen him. He never showed up. We don't know, in the last analysis, how this will end up.

[Reporter] But this man is the third member of a association for the Savanette area. Will he still be able to participate in the elections? Or will that association be eliminated?

[(Jean-Francois)] We saw the president of the Departmental Electoral Office in Hinche. We sent him the news and we met with him personally. We laid the case before him, and (?he said we would get) an answer right away. We should know by tomorrow, Thursday, if that association can participate or if we should dissolve it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Boycott Supporters Arrested

PA142217 Paris AFP in Spanish 1944 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Report by Edouard Pons]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 14 Jan (AFP)—Several dozen supporters of the elections boycott planned for next Sunday in Haiti have been arrested by the Army, while a particularly slow campaign continued today. The campaign was marked on Wednesday by the first public meeting by a Duvalierist regime representative since the regime fell in 1986.

The arrests took place in various parts of the province and mostly affected the youths from the church communities, peasant groups, and the organizations that called for abstention in the elections that will cover presidential, legislative, senatorial, and municipal posts.

According to radio correspondents, some of the arrested persons have been maltreated. [passage omitted]

While military trucks and armored vehicles continued to patrol Port-au-prince streets to prevent any outbreak of violence, observers were waiting today for the ruling by the annulment court that must confirm or reject the decision adopted last Saturday by the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] that eliminated the Duvalierists as candidates in the elections. [passage omitted]

Campaign in Gonaives

FL141440 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 1145 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Report from Gonaives correspondent (Edgard Bruno)]

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon, the Departmental Electoral Office [BED] for the Department of the Artibonite established the polling stations for next Sunday's elections.

There will be a total of 80 polling stations in Gonaives and the surrounding area. The town of Gonaives will have 20 polling stations and its communal stations will have 60. [passage omitted]

The current BED informed us that the number of polling stations had had to be reduced because there aren't enough ballot boxes. That is why they will allow 1000 voters to vote at each polling place instead of the 500 planned by the first Provisional Electoral Council.

There is really no electoral campaign in Gonaives. There are no rallies. There is no electoral activity going on. However, candidates are parading through the living rooms of certain important authorities in Gonaives. They are coming from all over, like ants, like grains of sand, and parading through the living rooms of these authorities. This is giving rise to many rumors of fraud and cheating in Gonaives. There are many rumors circulating in Gonaives to the effect the elections will be rigged in favor of this or that candidate. [passage omitted]

Campaign in Northwest

FL141455 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 1145 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Excerpts] We will now hear from our correspondent in Port-de-Paix. (Michel Edouard), informs us there is an intimidation campaign being waged in certain parts of the Department of the Northwest. For example, many have had to leave their home villages clandestinely in the Berger area because there is a problem of insecurity. They are trying to get away before the elections. Here is (Michel Edouard), in Port-de-Paix.

[Begin (Edouard) recording] In the Department of the Northwest, a few days before the 17 January elections, several [word indistinct] (?are) giving quite a number of people many problems.

The arrests being made here and there in different provincial towns have upset some of the department's young people—especially in Jean-Rabel, where many young people in (Obo) have had to go into hiding because certain former macoutes, whose candidacies had been rejected, now feel they can hassle these young people. [passage omitted]

The same situation exists in Port-de-Paix. There has been talk of a black list circulating in town for a while now. There are reportedly plans to search the homes of all democrats and everyone who is struggling for a change in Haiti. It is reported that the names of several honest, serious, young people are on that list. People hope all this intimidation (?meant to crush) people will stop.

Many boats have been leaving the coast of Berger for Miami or Nassau. Many of those people don't have a chance of making it. We questioned a group of these

people who had been caught and returned. Many of them said they had fled because of the climate of insecurity prevailing in Haiti. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peasants Under Pressure

FL141620 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[All speakers unidentified]

[Excerpts] The peasants who live in the hills are undergoing many trials and tribulations because of the 17 January elections. Thus, in Gaillard, second communal section of Cayes Jacmel, repression has begun and today there are many peasants on the run. We met with a few of them.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Where did you come from, gentlemen?

[First speaker] Cayes Jacmel, the rural section called Gaillard.

[Reporter] What is happening in that area at present?

[First speaker] A policeman in the area named (Abel Jean) is giving the peasants problems. He is pressuring them. He comes at night to pressure and arrest them. He says they are the ones influencing other peasants not to vote in the elections. They are arresting everyone who serves in the Catholic Church. They have even shut down the church. All those people have gone into hiding.

[Reporter] Are you people here in hiding?

[Second speaker] Yes.

[Reporter] You are Catholic?

[Second speaker] Yes, we are Misyon Alfa people, Catholic people. We had to go into hiding. We were told we would be captured as soon as we showed our faces. They said we are the ones who want people to participate in demonstrations and go out and smash things and so forth and that is why they have decided to make us flee, so we will not remain in the area.

[Third speaker] I want to say the rural police can go ahead and kill all the peasants. This is (Tambou) addressing you: Even if they pressure you, don't you dare go vote in any crooked elections with any macoute.

[Reporter] And you, are you also from the area?

[Fourth speaker] Yes, I had gone to spend the Christmas holidays with my relatives. Sunday, Mr (Abel) came into the church, rifle in hand, followed by his assistant. They came into the church wearing shorts. They came into the church with weapons.

[Reporter] What church?

[Fourth speaker] [name indistinct] church—a Protestant church.

[Reporter] A Protestant church?

[Fourth speaker] Yes. He entered the church and said he knew there were many bad people in town, outside of town, and also in Port-au-Prince, who were the reason the 29 November elections were spoiled. He said: But I see who is here in the [name indistinct] church. He said if he did not see them on voting day, he would know they were among the bad people.

[Reporter] Is the Protestant church closed, also?

[Fourth speaker] No, it is not shut down.

[Reporter] Are they pressuring the members of the Protestant church also?

[Fourth speaker] Well, that's pressure; they said if they did not see us, they would know we were among the bad people. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are there many people in that situation?

[Fifth speaker] Yes, there are many people in hiding. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is the situation like in Gaillard now?

[First speaker] Very serious. All the young people are in hiding. All of them. They say it is Misyon Alfa and the small grassroots churches which open the people's eyes because the peasants are dumb. I too take this opportunity to tell my people in Gaillard: All of you, stay home. They eliminated our elections, so I am saying to you: Do not go to those crooked elections.

[Reporter] Is Gaillard the only rural section this repression is occurring in or have you heard of the same thing happening in other communal sections in the area?

[First speaker] I saw this myself in Gaillard, where I come from. They came and pressured people. I haven't heard about other sections. [passage omitted]

[Second speaker] (?I) would like to add that (?I) do not think that all this is happening only in Gaillard. Since these coming elections are to the benefit of the bigshots, we think this order must have come from high up. I see that in the entire world, this is the biggest [words indistinct] there is, because even [words indistinct] who is in (?Cayes Jacmel) with us has to live in fear in the area. When this happened, even he had to leave. Now he is in exile, so to speak. Now he is in hiding too.

[Third speaker] While I was hiding, I came through the woods. We went through (Katwouj). I met a colleague, a person who like us is a member of Misyon Alfa. He is in hiding now. It is everyone in the commune of Cayes

Jacmel. The lieutenant at the barracks sent him a letter telling him to arrest all the members of Misyon Alfa and all members of the small grassroots churches. We don't know what he is doing, in the (Katwouj) section. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Minister Flies to Haiti To Observe Elections

FL142005 Bridgetown CANA in English 1942 GMT
14 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 14, CANA—Jamaica's Education Minister Dr Neville Gallimore flew to Haiti on Thursday to observe Sunday's controversial elections, informed officials said. They said Prime Minister Edward Seaga would issue a full statement on the issue on Friday.

Seaga told diplomats on Tuesday that he had received a request from Haitian Foreign Minister Herard Abraham, inviting the Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders (GCCL) to send an observer to election.

The GCCL, led by Seaga and originally including the prime ministers of St Lucia, St Vincent, the Dutch Antilles and Aruba went to Haiti on December 10 for talks with the ruling junta and was widely criticised for what critics suggested was an embracing of military leader, Lt Gen Henri Namphy.

St Lucia

Compton Calls Haitian Elections 'Sham'

FL142000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1934 GMT
14 Jan 88

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Jan 14, CANA—St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton on Thursday called Haiti's elections a sham and distanced himself from the Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders (GCCL) which has been invited to observe the poll scheduled for Sunday.

"...As one of the persons who have been involved in the GCCL, I would not be sending an observer because I as chairman of Caricom, would not operate outside the framework of Caricom so we would not be involved in anyway in observing the elections," Compton told CANA.

Compton, who was originally involved in the GCCL initiative led by Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, indicated it was never his intention that the Haitian issue should be tackled outside the framework of the Caribbean Community.

He said: "Caricom has not been invited to observe. Even if Caricom had been invited, I as chairman would have recommended that we accept the invitation because the elections, as presently organised, do not satisfy a minimum criteria of being free and fair as envisaged by Caricom at their recent meeting in Barbados."

"The first requirement for having free and fair elections is that there must be secret balloting and there are no provisions for that and I would not have recommended if we received an invitation that we should go."

Compton said as far as he knew, the invitation to the GCCL from the Haitian authorities was sent to Seaga.

"...Press reports suggest he is sending people, I also heard that people would be sent from Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines but as far as St Lucia is concerned, we are in a sensitive position and I do not think we should operate outside the framework of Caricom."

Sunday's elections are being boycotted by Haiti's leading politicians who are dissatisfied with polling arrangements. The poll was rescheduled from November 29 when armed thugs linked to the ousted Duvalier dictatorship opened fire on voters, leaving at least 34 dead.

Compton had travelled to Port-au-Prince with Seaga, St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell and the leaders of Aruba and The Netherlands Antilles for talks with military leader General Henri Namphy shortly after the cancellation of the poll. At the time, there was no unified Caricom position on Haiti. However, the Caricom consensus reached following last week's consultation in Barbados, has been widely criticised as lacking teeth.

Compton said St Lucia's position before the Barbados meeting was somewhat stronger than the position coming out of the Caricom meeting but he added that "our new stand has conformed with the Caricom Communique."

"St Lucia's position was that unless the basic minimum criteria had been satisfied, we should not recognise any government that emerges. We may have compromised on our position but not on our principles," he said. Compton suggested there should be a reaction from Caricom countries after the poll, stating if the criteria for free and fair balloting had been met. The Caricom leaders had urged the Haitian leaders to remove all offending features in the organisation of the poll. Compton said this requirement had not been met.

"...Under the present arrangement, we do not think the elections are going to be free and fair. That is why we do not wish to take any further part in observer status with the elections which I think is a charade, a sham."

Compton added: "We also pointed out that if they (the Haitian Government) had done as Caricom suggested, we would have launched an initiative with the international community to assist Haiti to get out of some very difficult social and economic problems which they now face. ...Obviously one cannot interfere in the internal arrangement of an independent country. They deal with the matters as they see it, but we have pointed out the consequences of their action. Haiti is going to be isolated..."

Compton said "mild" though the Caricom position was, it had been ignored by Haiti's Government. "They have made no attempt to accommodate the Caricom position. They have sent invitations to all types of organisations but not to Caricom." He added: "The elections are being proceeded with and if they had heeded our advice, it would have resulted in a postponement of the polls. What we have called for could not have been done in the time available and that indirectly suggested to them that the election should have been postponed but they are going ahead in defiance...of the international community and even the mild Caricom structures. Therefore they will have to live with the consequences. But it is regrettable that the people of Haiti would have to pay for the intransigence of the regime."

Costa Rica

President Confirms Receiving Death Threats

PA142118 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2054 GMT
14 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Jan (DPA)—Oscar Arias, Costa Rican president and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, today confirmed that he has received death threats.

The president stated "I have received two threats, one from a foreign group and one from an individual."

Arias did not provide details on the threats but admitted that "they have been received in the past few days."

Moreover, it has been reported that officers of the Intelligence and Security Directorate are conducting an in-depth investigation of these threats against the Costa Rican president.

Arias Meets Managua Officials, Contra Leaders

PA140400 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Mario Zelaya report from San Jose—recorded]
[Excerpt] It has been a busy day. This morning Costa Rican President Oscar Arias met with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera and Nicaraguan Ambassador Claudia Chamorro. This afternoon, at the Presidential Palace, Arias received counterrevolutionary leaders Alfredo Cesar, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Obarrios, and Alfonso Robelo, who arrived in San Jose today. The meeting was held secretly because the mercenaries of the counterrevolutionary leadership avoided any direct contact with the press. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

President Terms Visit of CIVS 'Biased'

PA150427 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish
14 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte has described the Esquipulas II International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS) as "disrespectful and biased."

Duarte stated yesterday that the visitors "did not ask to meet with me. When government officials went to them to submit each commission's report, the CIVS rejected them and said they had come to listen to the opposition, not the government."

"I thought this was rude, disrespectful, and that it lacked the impartiality required for a verification commission. I believe this unusual and negative stand goes against the countries that they visited. It should thus be considered that the report they will present will not be totally accepted by the presidents," Duarte added.

Duarte's criticism is similar to that expressed by Minister of Defense General Eugenio Vides Casanova, who also called the peace plan's CIVS biased and "partial to Nicaragua."

Duarte stated that his government "has complied as much as possible with the Esquipulas II pact, despite criticisms made by the opposition."

He further noted that "the Nicaraguan Government's level of compliance will be highlighted, because it is more dramatic if Nicaragua has not complied than if other countries do not."

The president ruled out the possibility that new deadlines for compliance with the accords will be discussed at the 15 January meeting in San Jose.

Duarte Meets Nicaraguan Resistance Leaders

PA141713 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0353 GMT
14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—President Jose Napoleon Duarte met today with leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board.

Official sources reported that President Duarte held a "closed-door" meeting at his office with Azucena Ferrey and Pedro Chamorro, two leaders of the anti-Sandinist group that is trying to oust the Nicaraguan Government with the support of the U.S. Administration.

Today, Duarte also met secretly with the leaders of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Coordinating Board.

The official reports provided no details on the issues discussed. However, unofficial sources reported that the main issue reviewed at the meeting was the upcoming "summit" of Central American presidents scheduled for 15 January in Costa Rica.

Sources in San Salvador close to the RN said that during their talks, the RN and Duarte discussed the future of Esquipulas II and the possibilities of reaching peace.

The same sources added that Daniel Ortega's government has not fully complied with the Esquipulas II agreement, and that as long as his government maintains a Marxist-Leninist political stand, "it will be very difficult to attain peace in the region." [passage omitted]

Guatemala

URNG Addresses Message to CIVS

PA130000 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish
10 Jan 88 p 11

[Paid advertisement by the URNG: "Message to the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS)"; issued in Guatemala City on 2 January]

[Text] To the highly regarded members of the CIVS:

At this difficult and complex historic moment in the region of Central America—a moment characterized by the constant threat of war and aggression, and by a laborious search for peace, democracy, and social progress in an atmosphere of uncertainty and hope—the URNG General Command has the honor of addressing you, sending you its respectful greetings, and presenting you with a report on the current situation in Guatemala and on the path followed by the peacemaking effort initiated with the signing of the Esquipulas II agreements on 6 August 1987.[as received]

The URNG finds it essential to begin its statement by making a brief historical reference that will allow you to correctly understand our people's current reality. Failing to do so would be equal to mutilating a framework essential to understanding a complex and characteristic phenomenon; it would also hinder a global and authentic perception of the situation.

The problems troubling Guatemala—these have generated an internal armed conflict that has lasted for more than 2 decades—were not caused by random events or by stubborn or simplistic positions on the part of the URNG, which is a party to the conflict.

The violent interruption, through the foreign intervention in 1954, of a democratic process—which was beginning to resolve historic injustices, meet enormous needs, and legitimize popular desires—is the principal cause of the frustration and the huge social cost in lives and blood directly attributable to the interruption.

The intervention also marked the beginning of an era of cruel repression that still exists. More serious than this, however, it opened the way for the restoration of openly antidemocratic and repressive regimes that gradually perfected and emphasized a perfectly established system of oppression and infamy. These regimes achieved inconceivable levels that are known and justly condemned by the international community.

This life the Guatemalan nation has led in its recent phases and in the recent past has taken the path of fallacious institutionality and is thereby seeking to achieve legitimacy. Unfortunately, this means that the unity and continuity between the gloomy past and the uncertain present has accordingly not been broken. It now possesses new forms and methods.

This historical situation forced the Guatemalan people to exercise their legitimate right to rebel.

The people felt obliged to resort to arms to defend and protect themselves. They walked paths spread with pain and bitterness, and suffered the most unrelenting reprisals as they struggled to safeguard their most basic rights. They developed the desire for a just and dignified fatherland and for a better society—one based upon freedom, peace, authentic democracy, and social progress—with their productive and generous blood.

Today, at the dawn of 1988, we are facing an unresolved historic phenomenon. In January 1986, the expectation of change arose with the advent of the civilian government headed by President Cerezo.

This command has reiterated in a timely manner that the new president had an exceptional opportunity right in his hands—we expressed this literally—to lead the country through a true democratic process if, in keeping with his offers and promises and taking advantage of the national and international support he enjoyed at that historical moment, he were to take the steps required by the country's political, economic, and social situation.

It was and still is evident that it is impossible to build a democracy while maintaining and, worse yet, seeking to legalize repressive institutions, organizations, and documents. It is a very serious historical responsibility and constitutes a cynical joke on the international community to grant political support, and therefore impunity, to state institutions that need to be reformed, restructured, or abolished, instead of strengthening and renewing them.

In President Cerezo's 2 years of government, the internal situation has significantly worsened. The promises and expectations that surrounded him are far from having been fulfilled. Guatemala is still experiencing moments of anguish, pain, and repression. The possibility of constructing a true democracy is retreating and becoming cloudy. The government's positions increasingly harden from day to day, and the predominance of warmongering and repressive stands on the part of the Army's High Command over civilian control is notorious.

The URNG valued the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement because of its goals, and considered it a positive political framework for the search for a political solution to our internal armed conflict.

The conditions created to fulfill the presidential agreements and attain the goal of Esquipulas II strengthened the views that the URNG General Command has expressed since early 1986. First, we stated that democracy is an essential condition to attain peace. Since October 1986, we stated our position and proposed a political dialogue with the government of President Cerezo. We proposed a dialogue in which the two parties could jointly set the basis for building a true democratic process and the search for peace in our country.

Therefore, in 1987 we worked hard on various initiatives and talks with the Cerezo government, to be able to begin this process that would necessarily start with a political dialogue between the government elite and the URNG.

With that spirit, and overcoming various obstacles, delays, and refusing to be defeated by provocations, we finally arrived at the Madrid talks with goodwill and

optimism. We truly believed that in Madrid, we would begin a fruitful process of exchange and discussion that could lead us to propose possible solutions. We thought that within that framework, we would reach agreements to guarantee the construction of a true democracy capable of attaining a firm and lasting peace, as Esquipulas II proposes. In that way we thought we would be efficiently contributing to a necessary and urgent regional process.

Although the Madrid meeting was highly positive, everyone knows that the Guatemalan Government unilaterally and abruptly decided to suspend this promising process a few days after it began.

From that time on, we have publicly stated the urgent need to resume those interrupted talks as soon as possible, and to continue discussing the topics and proposals we presented in Madrid, in addition to our political statement for solving the national crisis.

In our most recent effort, we asked the National Reconciliation Commission to mediate with the government to resume the interrupted dialogue. We made this request through a document we have enclosed here for your information.

As for the Cerezo government's fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreement, we must honestly inform you with deep concern that the so-called honoring of these accords has been merely formal and inconsistent. The government's much-advertised steps have been simple formalities that lack significance and substance. The government sought to fulfill its obligations by forming a national reconciliation commission, which the government itself has tried to neutralize by denying it an active role and limiting its functions.

After ignoring all political solutions, the government announced an amnesty decree that members of the national congress and a respectable and qualified institution such as the College of Lawyers described as a violation of individual guarantees, as well as an inoperative legal instrument.

The noncompliance with the agreements and the aforementioned acts are a sign of disrespect for the international community, and a clear political and legal maneuver. We must add to this the lack of respect for the most basic human rights called for by international norms and treaties Guatemala has signed. Guatemala should abide by these treaties, which it instead systematically violates.

Despite the inauguration of a civilian government in our country, the Guatemalan people continue to be subject to systematic violations of human rights violations, which in the last 2 years took various forms and explanations to hide the flagrant outrages.

However, the very serious truth we now report is that, contrary to all logic and common sense, the government, through its repressive organs, has both overtly and

covertly increased systematic repression following the signing of the Esquipulas agreement. As a result, murder, torture, and disappearances have continuously escalated.

For example, 35 people who were detained are now reported as missing, while 132 extrajudicial executions took place between August and the 1st week of December. In addition, the Army conducted a counterinsurgency campaign between October and December that covered nearly half the country. During this campaign, not only did the military conduct operations, but civilians in the areas of conflict were harassed, and their lives and property were constantly endangered by aircraft and artillery.

As we reported in a document issued by the General Command on 5 December, more than 400 bombs of various sizes were dropped on Quiche and the agricultural areas of Ixcán during October and November alone.

We want to emphasize the actions and plans of the High Command, which launched this offensive to block early efforts at talks between the government and the URNG in Madrid during 7 to 9 October 1987. We have previously referred to these talks.

The URNG General Command wants to reiterate this to the CIVS, despite the repeated statements and actions of the Army backed by the Guatemalan Government.

1. We are determined to do everything possible to seek a fair and effective political solution to the armed domestic conflict.

This is why we have stressed, through all available organizations, the need to resume a serious and consistent political dialogue between the Guatemalan Government and the URNG.

Therefore, we continue to maintain that the agenda should include the proposal we presented in Madrid. We believe this proposal reflects the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement and consistently applies this agreement to our country's historical, political, and social reality.

2. The URNG hereby advises the CIVS—an authorized and prestigious international body—that the Guatemalan Government, instead of paving the way for peace and reconciliation, constantly aggravates the armed conflict in the country, thus increasing the duration of the people's suffering.

The URNG respectfully requests the CIVS to take note of these views and make them known to the governments and organizations it represents. The URNG also requests the CIVS, as a result of its knowledge and study, to take the measures or make the intercession it deems necessary.

Finally, we desire to call the commission's attention to Guatemala's current situation. This situation is a far cry from what President Cerezo publicizes and proclaims.

A people who wage a genuine and fair struggle live in our country—a people who ask the CIVS for understanding and attention. Trusting in justice, these people hope that the political and diplomatic moves to conceal the violation of their rights are not accepted.

Upon the deliver of this document, the URNG hopes for peace and democracy for Central America.

URNG General Command

Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Pablo Monsanto, Commander Gaspar Ilom Guatemala, 2 January 1988.

Quito Ambassadorial Post To Remain Vacant

PA150125 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish
13 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera stated yesterday that the Guatemalan Government's decision to leave its embassy in Ecuador vacant does not necessarily represent a break in diplomatic relations.

Cabrera believes that the Ecuadoran Government made a hasty decision based on misinformation. However, he was quick to clarify that he respected Ecuador's internal political decision, although he also reiterated the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry's right to reciprocate with a similar decision.

He added that the situation will be analyzed, and that he believes the historically strong relations between Ecuador and Guatemala have definitely been affected.

The foreign minister stated that because the Ecuadoran Government declined to approve former Guatemalan head of state General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Guatemala has decided to leave its diplomatic presence in that country without an ambassador.

In response to EL GRAFICO'S question on whether the term reciprocate meant the withdrawal of Mrs Magdalena Fegar Polit [not further identified], Cabrera stated that the matter would be studied.

Minister Cabrera added that the Guatemalan action does not represent a break in relations, and that there is a world of possibilities in diplomatic terms.

Guatemala's ambassador was Enrique Castellanos Carrillo, who was to be replaced by Gen Mejia Victores. The latter was then not accepted by Ecuador. For this reason, the Foreign Ministry has decided to not assign a new diplomatic representative to that country.

Honduras

Azcona 'Opposes' New Compliance Deadlines

PA142119 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT
12 Jan 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo today stated that he opposes the establishment of new deadlines to comply with the "Esquipulas II" agreement.

He added that it is not advisable to establish new deadlines, because the document signed by the regional heads of state on 7 August in Guatemala "does not specify definitive deadlines or sanctions."

Azcona pointed out that the presidential "summit" slated for 15 January in Costa Rica will not concern itself with specific proposals; he will see what the other heads of state have to say.

The five heads of state will receive a report from the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS) on compliance with the "Esquipulas II" agreement in the region.

The Honduran president said: "Approving new deadlines means playing with things"; whoever has not complied, "will have to comply, and reaffirmed that he opposes "the establishment of new deadlines." [quotation marks as received]

He added: "When deadlines are set, sanctions against a country for failing to comply are also established, even though they are not expressly written into an agreement. This is not the case with the Esquipulas II document."

Azcona said that a negative CIVS report on Honduras would be unfair, because the most representative sectors in this country voiced no major complaints.

Among other things, various popular sectors told the CIVS that the Honduran Government is not complying with the Guatemala accords and that human rights are being violated here.

Azcona admitted that there have been some cases of abuse of authority, "as there are anywhere in the world."

The Honduran president said that he will go to Costa Rica with an open mind, hoping that the same spirit that prevailed during the 7 August meeting of presidents in Guatemala will be present at the "summit."

He denied that his government follows "behavioral guidelines" dictated by the United States or other countries. Azcona also denied that Honduras is an obstacle to peace in Central America, because "there is internal peace here, which is the first element to guarantee peace abroad."

The president reiterated that the CIVS can visit the Palmerola Military Base in Central Honduras and "El Aguacate" Base on the western side of the Nicaraguan border. However, it will have to announce any planned inspection, "because one does not storm into a military zone."

As for a report presented to the CIVS by the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH) stating that there were 257 unofficial executions and unresolved homicides here in 1987, Azcona said that he would like the president of that organization to give him a list containing the names of those persons.

Two Rights Leaders Killed in San Pedro Sula
*PA150350 Paris AFP in Spanish 0334 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Jan (AFP)—Two top-level leaders of CODEH, including opposition Deputy Miguel Angel Pavon, were shot to death this evening in San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of Tegucigalpa, according to local news media.

Pavon, president of CODEH for the northwestern zone, had accompanied Moises Landaverde to his residence in the Florencia neighborhood, located northwest of the city. They were talking in front of the house when they were shot at 1830.

Former Military Chief Alvarez Martinez Returns
*PA141439 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish
1130 GMT 13 Jan 88*

[Text] Sources close to General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, [former] chief of the Armed Forces, have told this station that the controversial military man recently returned to the country. Alvarez Martinez has lived in Florida since he was ousted in a barracks coup in March 1984. According to the information we obtained, Alvarez Martinez arrived in Honduras by crossing the border at Aguascalientes on the Guatemala border.

Several prominent former Armed Forces officers were in Aguascalientes to receive and escort Alvarez Martinez to his home in Tegucigalpa. The report states that Alvarez Martinez arrived in the country on Saturday, 2 January 1988, although this has not been made public. This station was unable to confirm the report with close relatives of the former general, but confirmation was not denied.

Alvarez Martinez' return to the country had been expected for some time after several high-ranking military chiefs confirmed that the general could return to Honduras without difficulty. In his rare discussions with the press, Alvarez Martinez made clear his desire to return to the country. He must face charges in Honduras concerning the disappearance of several persons during his tenure as chief of the Armed Forces.

Other reports we have obtained confirm that Alvarez Martinez entered Honduras at Aguascalientes on 2 January, and that he has been carrying out administrative actions in several San Pedro Sula courts.

Nicaragua

Ortega Opposes Extending Esquipulas Deadlines
*PA141235 Managua International Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 14 Jan 88*

[Text] Nicaragua is against extending the deadlines for compliance with the Esquipulas II peace agreement, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today in a telephone interview with Costa Rica's Radio Reloj. In his statements, Ortega stated that Nicaragua has made the most progress within the framework of the Esquipulas II accords, and that his government will continue to strengthen this agreement.

Charges Filed Against U.S. Citizen Denby
*PA141801 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1343 GMT 14 Jan 88*

[Text] Mercenary James Jordan Denby was charged with violating the law on public order and security, and with association for criminal purposes.

Yesterday at the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunal [TPA], U.S. mercenary James Jordan Denby heard the charges of violating the law on public order and security, and of association for criminal purposes. These were read by Auxiliary Criminal Prosecutor Julio Cabrera.

Denby, who was captured on 6 December after the plane he was flying near the Costa Rican border was shot down, showed up wearing a flower-print shirt, khaki pants, and a pair of worn-out leather boots.

While listening to the charges, Denby played with a pair of eyeglasses. When TPA President Reinaldo Monterrey stated that the prisoner had been filmed at his farm with a group of contras, Denby smiled.

Cabrera accused Denby of being an instrument of the terrorist policy of the U.S. Government. He mentioned that among the items confiscated from the downed light aircraft was a thin plate attached to his flight log that had cocaine residue.

Julie Mary—Denby's wife—his brother William, and U.S. Embassy officials in Managua appeared at the public hearing held at the TPA offices.

Denby's legal adviser Enrique Meneses Pena interrupted several times, forcing the TPA president to call him to order.

In announcing that U.S. mercenary pilot James Jordan Denby is under provisional arrest, TPA President Monterrey said that Denby violated the country's legal order.

He stated: By flying over our national airspace in a light aircraft, Jordan Denby endangered our country's internal security, in addition to engaging in association for criminal purposes.

[Begin Monterrey recording] In 1984, contra camps Tango 1 and Tango 2 were located only 1/2 km from this man's farm. Among the documents confiscated from this mercenary were photo negatives that, when developed, showed the contra groups occupying his farm. He used these for propaganda purposes. In an article published by the FARM JOURNAL magazine on 4 November 1984, Denby wrote in favor of the contra groups and proudly mentioned that he allowed them to use his farm and gave them all kinds of assistance.

In addition, together with former (Colonel Richard Gamiche), Denby made arrangements to film contra camps located on his farm, as demonstrated in the documents confiscated from him. Those actions occurred from 1984 to 1985.

Jordan Denby belongs to an organization known as The Illinois Ranchers, which is headed by John Hull, whom they call the boss. This organization supports the contras morally and financially. The assistance that this organization gives to the contras in their attacks against Nicaragua is known as quote Wargame Against Nicaragua unquote. The contra organizations [3-second break in reception] Denby bought U.S. Army military insignia in U.S. stores for colonels and generals, which he delivered to the contra group leaders as quote promotions unquote, in an attempt to consolidate the leadership of the contra groups. Several of these badges were confiscated from the prisoner.

Denby maintained contacts with other British and French mercenary groups that planned to create a military front against Nicaragua. However, the plan was thwarted when several of those mercenaries were arrested by Costa Rican authorities. In addition, one of them known as (Dana Parker) died when his helicopter was downed in Santa Clara, in Nicaraguan territory.

In June 1987, James Jordan Denby was summoned by a grand jury in Florida, in connection with investigations concerning violations of the neutrality act. He was asked to testify on his links with David Johnson and Robert Owens, who were implicated in the arms sales related to the Iran-contra affair. This leads us to conclude that James Jordan Denby is an active instrument of the terrorist policy conducted by the current U.S. Government.

I must point out that among the items confiscated from this mercenary pilot, a thin plate attached to his flight log was found to have cocaine residue. This was confirmed by criminal laboratory tests. However, no evidence is available since it was destroyed during lab tests.

The aforementioned activities are violations of Nicaraguan legal order. Therefore, the national courts have the authority to hear and punish such crimes, as mandated in our Penal Code in Article 16, Point 3, which reads: Nicaragua's penal law is applicable to anyone who outside of national territory commits one of the following crimes: a) Crimes against the internal or external security of the Republic. [sentence as heard] Therefore, it is clearly demonstrated that the criminal activities this individual has carried out have endangered the internal security of our Republic. Consequently, in accordance with Decree 11-30 of 5 October 1982 and Decree 1233 of 11 April 1983, these courts have jurisdiction in cases that endanger our nation's integrity.

Charges: As TPA president, I accuse James Jordan Denby, whose personal information has already been mentioned, of violating Decree 10-74, Article 1, Point A, as author, and Point B, as accomplice, as well as of association for criminal purposes as stated in Article 4-93 of our current Penal Code.

The laws violated by the defendant read:

Article 1. An individual will be charged with committing a crime against public security in the following cases: a) Anyone who carries out actions to totally or partially place the nation under foreign control, or to impair its independence and integrity. b) Anyone who takes up arms to attack the national government, its institutions, or members, as well as anyone who carries out operations or makes arrangements for that purpose. [end recording]

Opposition Meets With Contras in Guatemala
PA141409 Managua International Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Members of the so-called Nicaraguan civic opposition have been meeting since this morning with Somozist mercenary leaders, it has been reported from Guatemala City.

The report states that Alberto Saborio, Agustin Jarquin, Luis Alvarado, Julio Baltodano, and Mario Rappaccioli, as well as Carlos Huembes, Julio Cesar Icaza, Miriam Arguello, and Jaime Chamorro Cardenal are part of the delegation of the Nicaraguan opposition. The opposition members arrived in Guatemala to meet with contra leaders Adolfo Calero Portocarrero and former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez, who traveled from Honduras to attend the talks.

MININT Issues Communique
PA150247 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0158 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Communique No 1401 issued by the Directorate of Public and International Relations of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior [MININT] in Managua on 14 January]

[Text] The MININT has learned from the state security agencies, public information, and other sources that as a follow-up to the so-called Oliverio Plan, which was

prepared by the U.S. CIA, a meeting was held in Guatemala between counterrevolutionary leaders and the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board. Attending on behalf of the Coordinating Board were Agustin Armando Jarquin, Alberto Saborio, Emilio Baltodano, Mario Rappaccoli, Carlos Agustin Huembes Trejos, Julio Cesar Icaza Tijerino, the young lady Miriam Arguello Morales, Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, (Cairo Manuel Lopez), (Tomas del Rosario Hernandez), and (Edmundo Henry Saenz).

Based on our information, the creation of a single front was discussed between the so-called national resistance, that is the counterrevolution financed by the U.S. Government, and the Coordinating Board. Also discussed was a plan to promote conspiracies and terrorist actions to take advantage of the political maneuvering room that the Nicaraguan Government has given the civic opposition, in compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement. The MININT reports this development to the Nicaraguan people. Moreover, it has decided to deepen an investigation into this development, since it constitutes an attack against the laws of the Republic and the peace agreement signed in Guatemala.

Issued in Managua, 14 January 1988.

1988 for a worthy peace. Free fatherland or death.

Directorate of Public and International Relations of the MININT

Panama

PRD on 'Irrevocable' Future CEN Changes

PA150126 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish
1730 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] At a news conference this morning, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] leadership announced that there will be irrevocable changes in the CEN [National Executive Committee]. These changes will be made during the national convention, through a special meeting.

PRD President Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said that the PRD's main problem is changes within the CEN, but that the current CEN leaders have also already placed their posts at the disposal of the party. He added that the party is concerned because, due to current political events in the country, it may not be possible to celebrate the national convention on the scheduled date, as has happened on two previous occasions. Nevertheless, he noted, the changes in the CEN will be accomplished even if it is necessary to call a special meeting on 11 March. Bethancourt stated that some 6,000 delegates will attend the convention due to the party's statutes, and that another 4,000 delegates will attend voluntarily.

The PRD president reiterated the call for a meeting of members of the PRD directorate on Friday.

As for the party's position on statements made by Jose Isabel Blandon, Bethancourt commented:

[Begin recording] [Bethancourt] First, let me tell you that this is a news conference granted by the PRD. If General Noriega has authorized him, which is something that I doubt very much, then the problem is one between him and Gen Noriega and the Defense Forces. However, Gen Noriega does not direct the PRD.

If we impose sanctions, or pass judgement, or investigate Blandon, it would be because his acts conflict with the principles, objectives, and stands of the party. It would be because he has carried out these acts in league with adversaries of the party. The party was never informed that he would be doing these things.

[Reporter] Is he going to be allowed to have his say?

[Bethancourt] The commission that has been created and the Honor and Discipline Court will be the ones to decide what procedures will apply. I cannot say what the decision will be; otherwise, we would be putting him on trial at this news conference. [end recording]

Opposition Leader Galindo on Blandon Meetings

PA140033 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish
1258 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former ambassador to the United States, from Washington by correspondent Ramon Jimenez Velez—live]

[Text] [Jimenez] We have just established direct contact with Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former Panamanian ambassador to the United States, in Washington concerning the recent events in Panama over the last few days. Mr Lewis Galindo has been involved in those incidents and has been cited in local and international news reports.

Mr Lewis Galindo, the reports received in Panama include information on your meeting with Eng Jose Isabel Blandon to discuss his plan for the democratization of Panama. We would like to know more about this, because many commentaries have been heard today. For example, today the Disciplinary Tribunal of the PRD will meet to discuss what the PRD described as Mr Blandon's betrayal of the party; Mr Blandon is a member of that party. It has been said that it is possible that Mr Blandon could have some links with the opposition, which you currently represent in Washington. Knowing that you are a person who has always explained things the way they are, we would like to know the truth about your meeting with Mr Blandon.

[Galindo] My dear friend Mr Jimenez, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address my compatriots.

First, I would like to clarify that I have always distinguished myself as a man who always tells the truth. My compatriots know this. I do not beat around the bush, and I always call a spade a spade.

In my meeting with Eng Jose I. Blandon—in fact, we met several times—I must admit he always clearly stated that he is a loyal PRD member. Blandon clarified that first. Then, he also stated that he has very close ties to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], because he worked as an FDP political and intelligence adviser for over 16 years. Engineer Blandon told me that he also has very close ties with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and that he is primarily seeking a solution to the crisis strangling the country. Second, Engineer Blandon added that it is essential for the FDP come out of the problem with flying colors. Third, he said he was interested in seeking an honorable departure for his friend, Gen Manuel A. Noriega, who appointed him to carry out such a study.

I am fully identified with the opposition. The Blandon Plan includes the quick departure of Gen Noriega, who is the main cause of the Panamanian situation. There is no possible solution to the Panamanian crisis without Noriega's departure. I stated this clearly to Blandon.

In addition, I believe that if there is any betrayal in this case, it is Noriega who betrayed Blandon. Noriega misinterpreted the Christmas truce. He thought that the Civic Crusade had been destroyed. However, I believe that after he saw the joy of the Panamanian people—I am sure that the other FDP members were also aware of this happiness—when they learned he had traveled to Santo Domingo, he must have pondered the whole situation. Anyone in his position would do that. I think Noriega realized that the Panamanian people's stand has not changed at all. This is what I can say in this regard.

As for the Civic Crusade, I believe that Blandon, through several political figures, will share his plan with the Civic Crusade for their analysis.

[Jimenez] Mr Ambassador, I would like to tell you the following: Yesterday, the members or the leaders of the Civic Crusade in Panama held a news conference, and said they had had no contact with Engineer Blandon. They also apparently rejected Blandon's proposal or plan, although I do not know whether or not they are familiar with it.

[Galindo] Blandon told me that he had not been in touch with the Civic Crusade. That is true. As far as I know, Blandon spoke with me, with Panamanian journalist Roberto Eisenmann, and with figures such as Carlos Andres Perez [former Venezuelan president]—because Mr Perez himself told me this. Blandon also spoke with Dr Lopez Michelsen [former Colombian president] and Daniel Oduber [former Costa Rican president]. All of them realized the positive aspects of the Blandon Plan. They sought to convince me to continue the talks with Blandon in a lofty way.

Noriega is apparently bothered by his inability to control events. Although Blandon and I belong to opposing parties, I must admit that he is a very intelligent man, and that he is brilliant in his own right. That bothers Noriega, because that means he loses control of the situation. Blandon has direct contact with FDP officers, and they will know that their fate is not tied to that of Noriega's. Noriega's case is one thing, and the survival of the FDP another. All Panamanians understand the situation this way. However, through seminars and brainwashing sessions, Noriega has tried to convince FDP officers that their fate will be very black if he disappears from the political and military scene. That is not at all true. The Panamanian solution entails the development of a strengthened and respected FDP, one that must be professional, apolitical, and under the control of civilian authority.

[Jimenez] Thank you, Mr Lewis Galindo, for your statements to Radio Exitosa directly from Washington.

[Galindo] Thank you for this opportunity. According to what Blandon said, I believe that after he presents the plan to the Civic Crusade, he would like to release it in full to the Panamanian people, so they can see that it contains no Syrians or Trojan horses. The country will triumph with this plan, which is what matters.

[Jimenez] I have another question, Mr Lewis Galindo. Where would the current government stand under this plan, because there are two versions here. Some say that the current government would be maintained until the 1989 elections, and others that there will be a radical change. What do you think about this?

[Galindo] Blandon's plan, which I know in detail, includes an option for President Delvalle. He must take some steps. If he does not, the plan would then proceed with certain changes, including the creation of a government junta until someone can assume the presidency. The vice president or anyone else elected by the Panamanian people could fill this position.

As for the report published in yesterday's CRITICA, I can tell you that Blandon's plan does not include the departure of prosecutors, judges, etc. According to the Blandon Plan, those changes would have to be enacted by the new government the Panamanian people will choose in the 1989 elections.

I want to clearly state that I believe Blandon's proposal includes many positive aspects. I am certain that when the Civic Crusade analyzes it carefully, this plan will be a guide for a national agreement.

[Jimenez] Thank you very much, Mr Lewis Galindo.

Civic Crusade Leaders Deny 'Settlement'

PA141321 Panama City *LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA*
in Spanish
13 Jan 88 pp A-1, A-14

[Article by Emilio Sinclair]

[Text] Leaders of the National Civic Crusade [CCN] resurfaced yesterday with renewed energy to explain that they "have not participated in any negotiation" to reach a political settlement with the government officials they are trying to oust.

CCN leaders led by Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra made this announcement yesterday during a news conference at the offices of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP).

A list was read containing the names of over 20 persons who comprise the CCN Executive Committee, along with the organizations they represent.

Businessman Carlos Valencia read the CCN communique, which stated: "We wish to clarify that this movement—as an organization representing the driving forces of this nation, and in view of the serious responsibility the Panamanian people have entrusted to this organization—will not approve a political solution that lies outside the framework of the true aspirations of the people and that is contrary to our principles."

The opposition CCN also said it is circulating a "Transition to Democracy Program," and it urged "all sectors and citizens' groups to evaluate and discuss this proposal to find a political solution to the current crisis..."

The CCN's "Transition to Democracy Program" contains certain demands that some sources linked to the government believe will not be easily achieved.

The CCN desires the following, among other things:

1. A provisional government junta composed of two CCN members and one opposition member.
2. The dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.
3. The calling of elections in 18 months.
4. The appointment of new magistrates to the Electoral Tribunal who are not members of a political party.
5. The replacement of judges and magistrates in the Ministry of Government and Justice and in the Judiciary Branch.

The CCN has only superficially considered the actions of the Panamanian consul to New York, Jose Isabel Blandon, who enjoyed the benefits of power as a member of the PRD and then later turned out to be a "conspirator and traitor," according to his fellow party members.

CCN leaders maintain that they have nothing to do with the Blandon Plan, which some have sarcastically labeled the "Chabelo Plan." [an allusion to the nickname of Blandon's second given name, Isabel]

As for the thwarted glee and short-lived rejoicing that overtook citizens who oppose the government and took to the streets on Saturday, 9 January, to celebrate the alleged departure of the FDP commander in chief, the CCN leadership explained the incident as follows:

"On the afternoon of Saturday, 9 January, large groups of citizens gathered peacefully on Libertad Avenue (Nicanor de Obarrio Avenue, or 50th Street), the bastion of the Panamanian people's struggle, to declare the new independence of the fatherland in view of the imminent downfall of the dictatorial regime." At approximately 1930, FDP antiriot forces abruptly appeared at the abovementioned avenue and forcibly dispersed the demonstrations of the people's happiness."

Half an hour after yesterday's news conference, at about 1100, six "pickup" patrol vehicles filled with antiriot forces were traveling between the public marketplace and Balboa Avenue to an unknown destination.

Meanwhile, the parties continue to squabble, and the country's economy is tottering.

Opposition Meeting With U.S. Envoy Scored

PA141730 Panama City *CRITICA* in Spanish
14 Jan 88 pp 1, 38

[Text] In another shameful, unpatriotic act, members of the Panamanian opposition members met for breakfast yesterday with U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis to ask him for instructions. A resident of the meeting site, who viewed the meeting with repulsion, was able to witness those attending the shameful event. There were about 36 vehicles, whose make, model, and license plate numbers are recorded in our office.

Those attending this unpatriotic breakfast, many of whom also showed disrespect to our martyrs by demonstrating on 9 January along 50th Street, went to take "Christmas" and "New Year" [preceding words within quotation marks published in English] presents to their political chief, Arthur Davis. We reiterate to him: DAVIS, TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF PANAMA! [preceding words published in boldface]

Paper Notes 'Disinformation' Base in San Jose

PA141727 Panama City *CRITICA* in Spanish
13 Jan 88 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] There is a base for disinformation and rumors against our country operating in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is constantly awaiting the signal of a powerful radio

station that broadcasts from Washington to Latin America. As soon as the base receives the signal, it unleashes its fury against Panama, and some "journalists" come to our country to continue their efforts at disinformation on behalf of the CIA.

Argentina

Further Reportage on Rico Case Developments

'Unofficial Spokesman' Cited

PY142122 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1544 GMT
14 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Former Major Ernesto Barreiro, acting as Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's unofficial spokesman, today asserted that if the current legal situation of the officer under arrest in Bella Vista is modified "it could have unforeseeable consequences."

Barreiro spoke to the media in front of the house in Bella Vista where Rico is lodged. He said the arrested officer will not get in contact with the media. Therefore, although he did not say so, Barreiro acted as the group's unofficial spokesman.

Barreiro said: "Lt Col Rico does not intend to do anything that might break the rules of discipline," and "this is why I am here and he is not."

He told the media: "Lt Col Rico is prohibited from making any kind of statement," and "therefore, since I am not prohibited from discussing anything, I have come here to talk to you so that we may widely discuss any subject."

Barreiro is the officer who prompted the Easter week crisis by seeking refuge in barracks and not appearing before the civilian court after being charged with torturing and other human rights violations. He asserted that Rico was in the country house. Barreiro made these comments at the entrance of the country house and promised that the arrested officer would soon come out to pose—in the distance—for the photographers, but this never happened.

Barreiro said: "There is no other information than what the media have disseminated; there is no court decision; no measure has been taken by the military judge; no detailed report on Lieutenant Colonel Rico's situation has been released by the General Staff" today.

Later he said: "We believe there could be a certain degree of unrest if an arbitrary measure is formally taken," in reference to measures that the military judge could take.

Barreiro added: "In other words, Rico's personal situation since 30 December has been the result of poor handling and even of political pressure, and politics is a field in which we do not intend to interfere."

Barreiro then said this situation "originated when General (Jose) Caridi proposed an arrangement whereby Rico would request his retirement in exchange for the lifting of the attenuated preventive custody." Barreiro called this the "beginning of the poor handling."

He added that subsequently, "strong pressure was exerted on the previous military judge, Colonel (Carlos) Martinez," and that "one should wonder why Colonel Martinez asked to be disqualified."

He then recalled that "yesterday the Army General Staff sent several radiograms alerting units, preparing personnel for possible action, and there are now some generals visiting garrisons making explanations."

He asked himself "why all this preparation, why these measures about a lieutenant colonel who is here in a country house with his wife, children, and some friends?"

He went on to say that "an entire military machine was put into operation, when this was not done even when the British extended the exclusion zone" around the Malvinas. He said that this is "incomprehensible."

He said "I am afraid that the situation does not depend on what Rico decides, but on the decision to be made about him. That is a decision which could have unpredictable consequences."

Asked if a mutiny—similar to the Holy Week event—could be repeated he said that "the Holy Week event cannot be repeated"; he believes, however, that "certain unpredictable things could occur here like the Holy Week event, when no one could be certain how serious the situation was going to become."

He then pointed out that "an administration has run out, the administration of General Caridi" and that "because of the procedures he used there is now doubt about all the resolutions of the military court."

He warned that after Military Judge Colonel Hugo Beltramino rules on this case, "a decision will be made at the appropriate time," and that "we are first going to try to clarify what is occurring, just as we did on 30 December."

Barreiro said: "That day we warned the media about the way the situation was being handled: the judge in charge had ordered Rico's house arrest while General Caridi was trying to pressure him to retire."

Asked if the Army commanders answer to Caridi, Barreiro said "I think administratively they do" and added "go every day to the barracks, hoist the flag... I do not know what will happen in a crisis situation as a result of the way the situation is being handled."

Barreiro said he did not "want to be either alarming or apocalyptic" but he wanted "to say that Caridi was suffering the consequences of the poor handling of the Army situation in past months, when doubts have been raised about his leadership."

Asked if Rico's group was rebelling against Caridi, Barreiro said that "they oppose his arbitrary decisions. This was shown by what he intended to do on 30 December."

Barreiro said he believes that "the intention is for those who participated in the Holy Week incidents to leave the Army" and recalled that during those incidents Caridi "was one of those who intended to suppress the Infantry School."

He stated that "we do not want to mobilize the Army to see if Lt Col Aldo Rico is taken into custody" because that "would be absurd" and added that he believes he is living in "a country trying to become serious."

Asked about the means his group will use in the future, Barreiro said: "The same as before the Holy Week incidents, that is, submit notes, talk with our superior officers; there are many other means." He added that "what happened during Holy Week cannot be repeated," even though he warned that "the situation within the Army is practically the same as it was before" those incidents "because, with the exception of the trials against officers, the situation has not changed."

Asked about those who support Rico, Barreiro said: "I am sure there are good generals, good colonels, and good lieutenant colonels, and not just 10 corporals as some people say." He added: "That was one of the funniest things I have ever heard."

Army Issues Communique

*PY142254 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2155 GMT 14 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (NA)—The Army General Staff has just released the following communique:

"The Army General Staff hereby conveys the following information to the public:

"The pretrial inquest into the case of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is being conducted by Military Judge No 22 Colonel Hugo Jose Beltramino in view of a request made on 31 December by Colonel Alberto Martinez, retired, who at that time requested that he be relieved from hearing the case and that he be discharged again from active duty.

"The military judge who initially heard Lt Col Rico's case placed him under reduced preventive imprisonment and charged him with 'abandoning his post, overstepping his authority, and committing acts of disobedience.'

"The duration of the pretrial inquest will obviously be directly dependent on the complexity of the case.

"It should be stated that, in accordance with military law, an officer is to serve a reduced preventive imprisonment either at home under house arrest or in military quarters.

"In accordance with the characteristics of the case and with the evidence produced, the judge has the legitimate authority to change the location of imprisonment and even to change the reduced preventive imprisonment to rigorous preventive detention.

"After the pretrial inquest has been completed and if the defendant has not been acquitted, his extent of his responsibility will be determined by a military court. In the case of a lieutenant colonel, he will be tried by a court martial for officers of the Armed Forces."

The communique is signed by Colonel Julio Oura.

Tanks Nearing Bella Vista

*PY150042 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0024 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Tanks and personnel of the Magdalena Tank Regiment are heading for Bella Vista, apparently to surround or to stage a show of force near the residence where Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is staying.

Buenos Aires Government Minister Luis Brunat has confirmed that the Army General Staff had requested police support for the regiment and that three squad cars will be clearing traffic. The request had been made this morning but the tanks only began to move toward Bella Vista this afternoon.

Rico Willing To Resist Force

*PY150051 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2336 GMT
14 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico has said that he will resist any show of force to dislodge him from the house in Bella Vista where he is staying. This information was disclosed by a spokesman of the officers who are with Rico.

After learning about the official reports on the deployment of armored units toward the Bella Vista area, Rico said that "there will be a fight" if they try.

However, sources close to Rico said that they would "possibly" receive a group of Army representatives who, as far as they knew, would inform Rico about the change of his legal status by placing him under rigorous preventive custody.

The officers said that should the presence of a group of Army representatives be accepted they would review the report and decide whether a possible show of force would be resisted or whether Rico would voluntarily go where he is sent.

Military officers at the Bella Vista country house also expressed their pessimism with regard to the fast-breaking developments.

They stated that: "We do not know what they intend by deploying trucks and tanks. This is only a country club where families and children are lodged."

They ended by stating that "if they want shooting, unfortunately, there will be shooting."

It was established that military personnel in combat uniform and others in regular clothing are on guard inside the house where Rico is lodged. Some of these officers are carrying rifles.

Rico is wearing a camouflage uniform corresponding to his rank of lieutenant colonel.

Regarding the contradictory reports on the withdrawal or continued presence of the police guards in front of the country club, the officers accompanying Rico agreed that "it seems that they want to withdraw the police guards in order to advance with tanks."

So far the police remain in their posts, although the police officers of the metropolitan area in charge of the three patrol cars and three motorcycles were seen talking to each other.

'Zero-Hour' for Rico Noted

PY150120 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0002 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Cesar Jaroslavsky, head of the bloc of Radical deputies, has said that 0800 tomorrow is "zero hour" for Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico to obey the imminent decision of the military judge hearing his case. The judge's decision could modify the attenuated preventive custody he is serving for the Easter week incidents.

The legislator said that "at that time we will know whether Rico has obeyed the judge's decision or not. If he does not obey it then the operations plan (?drawn up) by the Army staff will be implemented."

Jaroslavsky, who was approached by journalists accredited to Congress, said that at 0800, Military Judge Hugo Beltramino will go personally to the Bella Vista country house where Rico is lodged.

When he was asked about the deployment of troops and military units he said that they are part of a military actions program [passage indistinct].

Guard Ordered to Withdraw

PY150217 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0118 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Police personnel guarding Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's residence in Bella Vista obeyed the order to withdraw from the area only after high-ranking officials from the provincial government and Buenos Aires Police Department personally ordered them to withdraw.

Police Security Under Secretary Orlando Caporal and Deputy Director of Security Walter Jurado traveled from La Plata to Bella Vista to ensure that the order of Luis Brunati, the Buenos Aires Province minister of government, that the police withdraw "immediately" was obeyed. [passage omitted]

Further on Tank Deployment

PY150159 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0138 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Armored vehicles of the Magdalena Tank Regiment are on the way to the Fresno country house in Bella Vista, where Colonel Aldo Rico is heading a group of approximately 20 armed officers, some of whom are in combat uniform. However, it is expected that the tanks will not reach their destination until tomorrow morning.

The tanks were deployed by Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi but the unit apparently received instructions to avoid populated areas. The tanks left Magalena for Brandsen, and from there they will take the Buen Ayre Road, taking considerable time to get to Bella Vista. [passage omitted]

3 Officers Said Replaced

PY150235 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0204 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—Military sources tonight said that Army chief of Staff Jose Caridi has ordered the replacement of three commanding officers who refused to [words indistinct] Buenos Aires to participate in possible actions against Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's group.

[Words indistinct] 7th Infantry Regiment stationed in La Plata, Lieutenant Colonel Magnelli; the chief of the Armored Cavalry Regiment stationed in Gualaguaychu, Lieutenant Colonel Repetto; and the deputy commander of the 101st Armored Regiment of San Nicolas are the officers reportedly under arrest.

Units Ordered Ready To Move

*PY150248 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0216 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (DYN)—According to reliable sources tonight, military units headquartered in Azul, Tandil, and Olavarria have received orders to prepare all their equipment and personnel and get ready to move.

The orders are for mobilization at 0800 tomorrow. The destination or reasons for the mobilization have not been specified.

The sources added that no arrests or acts of insubordination have been reported.

More Armored Units Mobilized

*PY150310 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0253 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Azul, 14 Jan (DYN)—Personnel of the 10th Tank Regiment and of the 1st Armored Artillery Group late today left for "a destination [words indistinct] of the Greater Buenos Aires area."

It was learned that they are reportedly going to Bella Vista, where Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is staying.

The military personnel who are wearing combat uniforms are going in two tanks and a convoy carrying rifles on orders from the Army chief.

The chiefs of the military units of this city were not in their units because they reportedly left for Buenos Aires. They are Lieutenant Colonels Enrique Brazzin of the tank regiment and Hernan Olmos of the artillery group.

Shots Heard in Country Club

*PY151004 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0718 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—Several shots and machinegun bursts were heard at approximately 0400 inside the residence where Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is staying.

A machinegun burst was heard first and the reporters standing at the gate of the residence smelled the strong odor of cordite from the fired shots.

Six or seven isolated pistol shots were then heard and it seemed that the shots were in response to the machinegun burst.

The guards inside the residence asked reporters to lie on the floor.

The origin of the shots was not established, but they were fired from inside the El Fresno Country Club, where Rico [words indistinct] as though it was a shoot-out [words indistinct] of Rico or an alarm based on the belief that an attack was coming from outside.

No repressive forces have been observed outside the club. The tanks and other vehicles have not yet arrived.

Guard Posts 'Reinforced'

*PY151010 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0756
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—The first pedestrians and neighbors out on the streets near Campo de Mayo have observed that the guard posts have been strongly reinforced and that troops in combat fatigues have been deployed throughout the area.

These troops have adopted a defensive posture and [words indistinct] close by public buildings, but outside the garrison perimeter.

Tank Advance Continues

*PY151011 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0918 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—The column of tanks that left Magdalena for Bella Vista continues to advance along Highway 215 and it has already entered the Cintura Thruway [Camino de Cintura] at the height of the Llavallol traffic circle.

It is presumed that this column of tanks, which belongs to the 8th Regiment based in Magdalena, will not enter Bella Vista directly, but will group together at El Palomar or some other nearby military area.

'Armored Vehicles' to Capital

*PY151058 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1033 GMT 15 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—[Passage omitted] Armored vehicles from the II Army Corps that left Parana [capital of Entre Rios Province] are closing in on the Federal Capital with the purpose of arriving at Los Fresnos Country Club at 0800, when Military Judge Colonel Hugo Beltramino will arrive to inform Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico about the state of his case.

Military Chaplain Msgr Miguel Medina and the former chief of Army Personnel, General Manuel Arrillaga, have presumably tried to mediate with the group that is headed by Rico in order to prevent a confrontation with General Caridi's forces. [passage omitted]

Juan Carlos Slaiman Ali, who has proclaimed himself "Rico's only spokesman," expressed his "surprise" regarding reports indicating that Rico "will resist the judicial decision." He stressed that no official notification to that effect had been received at Los Fresnos.

Moreover, former Major Ernesto Barreiro has distributed a handwritten document to the media that is attributed to Rico. The document indicates that the leader of the Easter weekend uprising "does not acknowledge Caridi's authority" and it warns that his "attitude will lead to an internal confrontation that will surpass the capability of those involved to resolve and will place the system in danger." [passage omitted]

President Raul Alfonsin was continually kept informed throughout the night about the developing situation and he is scheduled to leave for Government House at 0700 to carry out a series of political contacts with the intention of strengthening support for the institutions. [passage omitted]

Further Rico Statement Issued

*PY151120 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0551 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (EFE)— Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, leader of the military uprising during Easter Week 1987, who is once again confronting the Army leadership, tonight stated that he does not recognize the authority of Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi. Military columns are now approaching the location where Rico is now staying.

Rico has published a new statement, this time signed by himself, in which he refuses to recognize Caridi's authority as Army chief, and adds that he will not submit to a military court "until minimum justice is guaranteed."

In this statement, Rico warns that "Gen Caridi's attitude will inevitably lead "to an Army internal confrontation, the consequences of which will surpass the capability of those involved to resolve, endangering the stability of the system, domestic peace, and national defense."

Remarks by UCR Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies UCR bloc, regarding a "zero hour" of at 0800 (1100 GMT) on Friday, 15 January, were not denied, and those confined to Los Fresnos Country Club have taken such time as a point of reference.

Some journalists claim that a large number of armed people are at Rico's residence, although EFE was able to confirm by mid-afternoon that none of the people who were near Rico's house were carrying weapons.

Military experts have told EFE that the lieutenant colonel may no longer be at the Fresnos club and could have sought refuge in a garrison where his followers may be confined, to continue testing the force of military authority from there. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, there are rumors about the enlistment of the II Corps headquartered in Rosario, 379 km north of Buenos Aires, while in the city of Parana, a group of officers were ready to leave for Buenos Aires.

Military sources cited by the private agency DYN have reported that the situation was normal in other Argentine Army, Navy, and Air Force units.

The news agencies and radio stations are continuously transmitting new reports on the situation, although official sources are merely mentioned in the newscasts.

According to some reliable sources, all troop deployments conducted by the Army chief constitute an effort to avert, through psychological impact, any outbreak by groups close to Lt Col Rico.

According to these sources, it cannot be predicted whether there will be an armed confrontation, and it is hoped that the officer accepts the proposal military Judge Colonel Hugo Jose Beltramino will extend to him within the next few hours.

However, the last statement written and signed by Rico seeks new pacts in which the participants will not be the military judge or the Army chief of staff, whose authority he does not recognize.

Judge Says Rico Not at Club

*PY151209 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1150 GMT 15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Former Judge Lucio Somoza has confirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is not at "Los Fresnos" Country Club in Bella Vista.

"According to what we have just seen, he is not in the country club now," said Somoza, adding that he is unaware of Rico's whereabouts.

In addition, Somoza confirmed that a lieutenant colonel who entered the country club just a few minutes ago "was sent by military Judge Jose Beltramino," who reportedly drew up a memorandum, as he has been unable to notify Rico.

Rico Whereabouts Said Unknown

*PY141213 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1154 GMT
15 Jan 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—Early this morning Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico left the residence he was staying in at Bella Vista, where he was under attenuated preventive arrest. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

The report regarding Rico's departure from the house in which he had been staying for 17 days began to circulate just after 0700 and was confirmed officially at 0825 by the owner of the house, Salvador Lentini, who gave very few details to reporters.

A military mission comprised of a lieutenant colonel named Vago and a major arrived at the house in Bella Vista at 0800 in order to notify Rico about the state of the case against him, in accordance with a decision handed down by Military Judge No 22 Colonel Hugo Beltramino. Beltramino is in charge of the case concerning the Easter Week military uprising.

It is obvious that this mission was not carried out and the Army envoys departed some 20 minutes later without making any statements.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that armored forces deployed from the south toward Bella Vista have now reached the installations of the Military College, located approximately 10 km from the house where Rico was staying until early this morning.

Rico Said Injured in Incident

PY151234 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1158 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—Military men who early this morning accompanied Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico have leaked information that the leader of the Easter rebellion reportedly "sustained minor injuries" during an unclear incident that occurred early this morning at "Los Fresnos" country club. During the incident, machinegun bursts and handgun shots were heard.

The seriousness of this report has been placed in doubt by Army personnel close to Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi. They described this report as "a fabrication seeking to justify Rico's escape."

A flurry of reports occurred shortly after it was formally learned that Rico was not in the country club. It was speculated that he sought refuge at a military unit. However, this could not be immediately confirmed.

Meanwhile, officers who remain loyal to Gen Caridi have confirmed that "we will stop this ridiculous thing."

Brazil

5-year Term Amendment Wins Assembly Majority

PY150032 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese
2100 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] President Sarney today received Senator Edison Lobao from the PFL of Maranhao State and Deputy Matheus Iensen from the PMDB of Parana State.

The two leaders told the president the amendment establishing the 5-year presidential term, which they sponsored, was submitted with the signature of 317 Constituent Assembly members.

Senator Lobao said the establishment of the 5-year term by the Constituent Assembly would give Sarney's administration new opportunities. Deputy Matheus Iensen said Sarney has reiterated his conviction that the Constituent Assembly will have the final word on his term in office. [passage omitted]

The Centrist group submitted its nine amendments just 4 minutes before the midnight deadline. They mounted a signature collection center at a corner to obtain the signatures needed to guarantee automatic passage, and they were successful. The various amendments they sponsored had the support of between 274 and 296 Constituent members. The amendment of Deputy Iensen, however, guaranteeing the 5-year term for President Sarney, was submitted early in the evening with 317 signatures. [passage omitted]

Nobrega Meets With Sao Paulo Businessmen

PY141324 Brasilia Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] During a meeting with Sao Paulo businessmen today, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega said the Brazil's return to the IMF is not an affront to national honor. Da Nobrega added the IMF is no longer the bogeyman it was in the past, and it has an important role to play in the country's development. The minister also discussed inflation, which he says will reach 15 percent this month.

This was his first visit to Sao Paulo after being named finance minister. Da Nobrega visited the National Federation of Banks, the Federation of Industries, the Federation of Commerce, and the Commercial Association.

Reporter Roberto Souza was with the minister. Da Nobrega defended the need for new investments to fight inflation and balance the economy. The foreign debt issue was discussed in the four meetings he held in Sao Paulo. Mailson da Nobrega also defended the return of Brazil to the IMF.

[Begin recording] We need to be pragmatic. We cannot accept that the return of Brazil to the IMF is an affront to national honor. On the contrary, it is necessary to preserve our economic growth [words indistinct]. The IMF has changed. It has now become an organization as any other multilateral institution. It has become aware it is not possible to adjust Third World economies by forcing recessions, by the deterioration of public services, or by a reduction in purchasing power. [end recording]

Da Nobrega viewed January's inflation prospects at the Commerce Federation.

[Begin recording] We have indications that January's inflation rate will level at around 15 percent, but you should not make promises because of the adjustments submitted [words indistinct] [end recording].

Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries acting President Carlos Eduardo Moreira summarized the businessmen's impression of Da Nobrega's visit after the finance minister told them the return of investments depended on an economic policy without packages or rule changes.

[Begin Moreira recording] We had a positive impression of him. He seems serious and really concerned about the future of the country. He is a man who demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the difficulties of the foreign debt. [end recording]

Da Nobrega also visited Governor Orestes Quercia at the Bandeirantes Palace. After the meeting, Da Nobrega spoke about the Brazilian position in the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

[Begin recording] Brazil will seek a final agreement to solve its foreign debt problem. This agreement should cover the complete balance of the debt and should include mechanisms providing resources, or at least a percentage of what the country has to pay. Regarding interest payments, we have maintained the country will not resume payments if conditions are not agreed upon with banks. [end recording]

Da Nobrega said he will return to Sao Paulo soon to meet with agricultural producers, labor leaders, and associations that represent workers.

Chile

Merino Announces Date of Plebiscite

PY142303 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino this afternoon announced that the plebiscite will be held between 11 September and 12 December 1988. Merino made the announcement after presiding at a Government Junta session that lasted over 2 and 1/2 hours. Asked about the opinion of some politicians who proposed that the plebiscite be supervised by foreign observers, Merino said he disagreed because all elections are supervised by the Armed Forces, and this has happened for the last 50 years. Regarding the dates of the plebiscite, Merino said:

[Begin Merino recording] I have said before that the plebiscite will be held between 11 September and 12 December, not before or after those dates [words indistinct] [end recording]

The Government Junta also approved the law regulating the ballot and counting of votes for the election of president of the Republic, congressman, and plebiscites [as heard]. This was reported by Admiral Merino after the Government Junta session. Merino said that the law includes all aspects of adequate electoral propaganda, the ballot boxes themselves, boards for the counting of votes, and the reception of claims and answering of lawsuits. According to Merino, this law maintains the

basic structure of the former legislation on the matter. However, he added, the executive branch has decided to issue regulations that will leave no doubt among normally informed people. [passage omitted]

FPMR Leader Discusses Strategy, Plebiscite

PY111745 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1222 GMT
10 Jan 88

[Text] Madrid, 10 Jan (EFE)—Commander Jose Miguel, leader of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], has said his organization "will not interfere with or hinder" the consolidation of unity in favor of a "no" vote in the Chilean plebiscite.

In his first personal interview, which is published today in the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, Commander Jose Miguel states: "We intend to contribute to the atmosphere and mobilizations that have sprung from the plebiscite issue."

He explained that the FPMR has not given up open struggle against the regime "in the event Pinochet perpetuates himself through a fraud," adding that "we are preparing for such a situation."

The FPMR leader said he has information about "Pinochet's plans to repeat what he did on 11 September 1973, using the Army to remain in power." Jose Miguel said "the Armed Forces are being prepared for the idea of a low-intensity conflict."

"The next steps are not planned as political milestones, but as battles," Commander Jose Miguel said, adding: "As you see, it is not an electoral consultation."

The journalist who interviewed the commander said she met with the commander after a 5-hour trip that started in La Providencia District, and that she wore a blindfold with dark glasses on top. She said the FPMR leader answered all her questions without any prior preparation.

Throughout the conversation Commander Jose Miguel referred to the recent kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Carreno, whom he described as "a man who knows a lot about weapons, a very valuable officer," and whom "we did not question, pressure, or torture."

Commander Jose Miguel also said "we are convinced it is possible to recover a large number" of the military men, and added that the FPMR has "an organization within the Armed Forces" through which the FPMR obtains information on what is going on in military circles and on Pinochet's plans.

Regarding the position of the FPMR, Commander Jose Miguel acknowledged a crisis with the Communist Party "on account of different views of the political situation."

He also said, in a tone described by the journalist as angry, that "we are not the armed branch of any party. We are not Marxist-Leninists. We are Christians and Marxists."

He denied that the FPMR intends to fight to impose a dictatorship of the proletariat, and he insisted that his struggle is aimed at "overthrowing this regime and allowing the people choose their destiny democratically."

Commander Jose Miguel said the FPMR does not receive foreign economic aid, and "we do not share the position of the Shining Path or the Basque Fatherland and Liberty."

The FPMR leader concluded by saying that freedom will be obtained "through a combination of different forms of struggle" and reiterating that "we have taken up arms only to achieve freedom for Chileans."

Colombia

President Barco Speaks on Social Change

PA150120 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0238 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow patriots, as I announced on the night of 31 December, today I will review the intentions, content, and results of one of the changes the nation had been demanding, a change that I had promised to fulfill on my party's behalf and that the government is carrying out: social change. [passage omitted]

Let me begin by noting the starting point of the process of social change. This administration began in the midst of serious social disorders that continued despite the various actions taken by previous governments to control public order. Violence, terrorism, generalized disobedience of ethical and legal rules, and increased economic power in the hands of criminal organizations are some of the more alarming symptoms of the social crisis that was prevalent prior to 7 August 1986.

The habit of harming third parties in order to more effectively exert pressure to achieve just or unjust advantages makes a harmonious social life untenable. This is only one aspect of the institutional and moral crisis Colombia has been suffering. Though it is true social conflict in Colombia has its roots in the country's own history, the most cruel signs of its magnitude appeared over the past 4 decades: human rights violations, assassinations, persecution of minority groups, struggles for land, and serious confrontations in labor-management relations. These activities cannot be explained simply as the natural result of the vital liveliness of a people as they

move toward modern phases of social organization; they are really evidence of a prolonged situation of injustice in the distribution of economic and political power. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the absurd idea that respect of the rights of other is an unacceptable limitation of freedom begins to gain strength. That is why the right of majority rule is not recognized; people's honor is not respected; freedom of movement is not respected; the right to work, education, or health services are not respected.

Each group, with its own particular interests, transfers to its fellow citizens its bitterness, its protests, its disapproval by use of blockades, sabotage, and interruption of public services—not caring at all for society.

Citizens feel the government should end these abuses with a strong hand. I want to warn those responsible for these arbitrary decisions that the government's and people's spirit of tolerance cannot give way to excesses and disproportionate attitudes that are detrimental to the normal development of people who are not involved in labor or other conflicts.

The social crisis is the result of demographic, political, and economic factors. It is not valid to want to disengage the difficult circumstances we live in today from the historical process. Any argument based solely on the social conflicts, on the limits of this administration or those immediately before, has no basis. [passage omitted]

We have begun a struggle against absolute poverty by going to the homes of the most destitute to help them meet one of their most pressing needs: child care. With the child-care centers established in 1987, the number of children being cared for increased 50 percent over the number that were being cared for through the traditional method of the Family Welfare Institute. This means that the service has been extended to no less than 120,000 children under the age of 7, with day care, food, and emotional encouragement. Increased child protection has been possible by placing the mothers themselves in charge of carrying out the program. Each mother, chosen on the basis of moral qualities and dedication, receives in her home 15 children and, with the others taking turns, attends to them like at the day-care centers, with the economic support and the proper training supplied by the institute. Children are thus ensured adequate nutrition in the decisive stage of their growth, where a deficiency can have irreversible consequences—both physical and intellectual.

There are welfare homes in 1,000 slums in 140 municipalities. Coverage this year will continue to increase; within 4 years, 1 million children will be cared for through this system of communal work. [passage omitted]

Malnutrition, respiratory illnesses, stomach disorders, and even polio had reached wide areas of the country. Faced with this, we intensified the program that allowed 3 million children to be vaccinated in 1987. This year,

we distributed 4 million envelopes of hydro salts to fight diarrhea. Health organizations are preparing to check 700,000 women during their pregnancies, and weigh and measure some 2 million children. [passage omitted]

In 1988, Coldeportes [Colombian Institute for Youth and Sports] plans to increase its programs and social investment plans by 35 percent, so sports and recreation can be used as a means of integrating youths with their families and society. [passage omitted]

In 1987 alone, 4.4 billion colons in credit were granted to small municipalities, 12.8 billion went to the four large cities, and 13.4 to the intermediate municipalities. Financing requests for 77 billion colons are currently being processed. As of 1988, through contracts already made with the World Bank, loans amounting to 40 billion colons will be made to the small- and medium-sized municipalities. A similar loan will be made for the broadening of aqueduct and sewage systems; in addition, 25 billion will be extended to support the development cities and 30 billion for the secondary road network. [passage omitted]

Although it is not necessary to reiterate how the Colombian Government and society have struggled against drug trafficking, I do not want to finish this speech without pointing out the huge injustice committed by the U.S. Government in its recent statements, which do not acknowledge the success of our struggle to destroy marijuana plantations and enormous cocaine-processing laboratories. The U.S. Government did not acknowledge the number of Colombians who have been extradited, or the fact that one Colombian justice minister has been murdered in this struggle. The U.S. Government did not acknowledge the various near fatal attacks on other justice ministers; the horrible attack on the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice; the systematic murder of judges and magistrates, who have fulfilled their duties bravely, although their courage and duties as servants of justice will never be sufficiently recognized; and the risks and sacrifices of many newsmen and political leaders.

The public is astonished by the retaliations against honorable Colombian citizens and exports. I am expressing a nationwide feeling by reaffirming the protest presented by the Colombian foreign minister to the U.S. Government.

Those attitudes also do not harmonize with the commitment assumed by Colombia in its struggle against drug trafficking nor with the atmosphere of understanding, which despite sporadic disagreement, have prevailed in the relations between Colombia and the United States.

I reiterate what I said in my 31 December speech. My statements reflected what the Colombian attitude has been in the struggle against drug trafficking. I said: Those who protect themselves under the ill-intentioned, false interpretation of the law; or those who use vile threats,

treacherous attacks, murders, kidnappings, and even bribery and flattery to destabilize the state will not prevail. We will give exemplary punishment to those who betray their duties. We must not let the common front against the true enemy be divided.

Compatriots, tonight we have analyzed the preliminary aspects of our social change.

1. We talked about the success of the program that takes care of children under 7 years of age. These programs operate at locations near children's homes.
2. We discussed the strengthening of the program to improve children's health and nutrition measures.
3. We talked about current programs to help provide urgently needed homes.
4. We discussed programs to incorporate families into the civilian organization of society.
5. We described the new laws issued to create associations, enterprises, and community organizations.
6. We discussed the process of centralization, which is being developed to strengthen the participation of the various regions and municipalities in the basic tasks of our social change.

Tomorrow, I will talk about the main advancements made in the application of strategies for the creation of human settlements, which are providing many Colombians with decent homes for their families and the ability to exercise their right to live in the city—a right that has been denied to them for many years.

Good night. I will see you again tomorrow.

Suriname

Bouterse Rejects Negotiation on Brunswijk
FL141905 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Holland has created the Brunswijk problem so let them solve it; there is nothing here to be negotiated. This was a comment of Commander Desi Bouterse in reaction to a suggestion by Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers for negotiation in the Brunswijk question. In the presence of members of the National Army, Bouterse asked himself where in the world negotiations take place with terrorists? With loud approval of his audience, Bouterse gave the assurance that as long as there is one terrorist on Suriname soil the Army will fight against him. Concerning the Dutch offer to mediate, Bouterse said, if Holland calls itself a friendly nation let them stop supporting the terrorists and bar them from appearing on their television. He also said that Holland should not publish newspapers on behalf of terrorists.